

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113109
ORIGIN EB-08

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-----013876 041017Z /11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 113109

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION

REF: ROME 7815

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY WASHINGTON AGENCY REACTIONS TO SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS FOR USE IN MAY 5 DISCUSSIONS AMONG ROME PERMREPS. ASSUME OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA ARE EITHER INFORMATIONAL OR COVERED IN PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS WITH MISSION.

2. GENERAL - WFC SECRETARIAT HAS DONE A COMMENDABLE JOB OF HIGHLIGHTING MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES AND ANALYZING THEM IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCISE AND RELATIVELY WELL-BALANCED FASHION. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL PROVIDE A SUITABLE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. U.S. AGREES IN GENERAL WITH THE PRINCIPLES STRESSED IN THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND IS WILLING TO WORK WITH OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES.

3. FOOD PRODUCTION - THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING WAYS TO ACCELERATE THE FLOW OF INVESTMENT TO REDUCE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AND INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION, PARTICULARLY IN NEEDY FOOD-DEFICIT COUNTRIES. ESSENTIAL

INGREDIENTS IN SUCH AN EFFORT ARE: (1) A RECOGNITION THAT STRUCTURAL IMPEDIMENTS HAMPER RESOURCES FLOWS; (B) THAT DONORS, RECIPIENTS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES MUST COOPERATE BETTER IN ALL STAGES OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS, AND ; (3) THAT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DESERVE AND REQUIRE SUSTAINED HIGH PRIORITY ATTENTION BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION STRATEGIES AND IS WILLING TO OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUCH EFFORTS UPON REQUEST. WE ARE EXAMINING THE SPECIFIC SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS ON WAYS IN WHICH THIS ACTIVITY CAN BEST BE ORGANIZED AND WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS OF OTHER WFC MEMBERS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

4. FOOD SECURITY - THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE WFC CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE IMPETUS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN GENEVA BY STRESSING ITS STRONG INTEREST IN A PROMPT AND FAVORABLE OUTCOME WHICH ENSURES MEANINGFUL WORLD FOOD SECURITY, ESPECIALLY FOR LOW-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DEPENDENT ON FOOD IMPORTS.

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5. 500,000 TON RESERVE FOR EMERGENCIES - THE U.S. HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM RESERVE BY CONTRIBUTING 125,000 TONS OF CEREALS FOR EMERGENCY USE UNDER WFC AUSPICES. IT IS EXAMINING THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR A CONTINUING RESERVE CAREFULLY BUT IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DECLARE ITS VIEWS.

6. FOOD AID - AS OUR PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION DEMONSTRATE, THE U.S. IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE SECRETARIAT VIEW THAT THE 10 MILLION TON GLOBAL TARGET BE TRANSFORMED INTO BINDING COMMITMENTS AND URGES OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT.

7. NUTRITION - THE U.S. AGREES WITH THE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT THAT HIGH PRIORITY BE ATTACHED TO NUTRITIONAL OBJECTIVES AND THAT THE UN SYSTEM SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN STIMULATING INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO FOOD AND NUTRITION. THE US IS EXAMINING THE SPECIFIC DRAFT PROPOSALS.

8. FOOD TRADE - IN CITING THE BENEFITS WHICH COULD ACCRUE FROM A RELAXATION OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS BY INDUSTRIAL

COUNTRIES, THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT FAILS TO MENTION
SIMILAR BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE U.S. AGREES WITH THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AND IS EXAMINING SPECIFICS. CHRISTOPHER

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DRAFTED BY:EB/OFP/FPD:FMCELDOWNEY
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TO USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS STATE 113109

USINT

FOL STATE 113109 SENT ACTION ROME MAY 3, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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